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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,553	08/14/2003	Wouter Cornelis Puijk	2183-6064US	3138
24247	7590	12/09/2005	EXAMINER	
TRASK BRITT P.O. BOX 2550 SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84110				LUM, LEON YUN BON
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				1641

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/642,553	PUIJK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Leon Y. Lum	1641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 23 September 2005.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Examiner thanks Applicant's representatives for the personal interview held on 23 September 2005. A summary of the interview is attached with this Office Action.

Specification

2. The substitute specification filed 02 March 2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown et al (US 5,807,522).

Brown et al reference teaches a microarray (i.e. micro-array support) with discrete regions (i.e. surface patches) having immobilized reagents (i.e. first member binding molecules on spatially addressable spots), wherein the regions are hydrophilic regions surrounded by a hydrophobic grid pattern on the support surface (i.e. hydrophilic surface patches interspersed on hydrophobic surface areas), and wherein

the microarray has a density of 1,600 regions/cm² (i.e. density of patches is at least about 25 patches per square centimeter). See column 9, lines 31-45; column 8, lines 39-41; and Figure 5.

With regards to claim 3, Brown et al teach that the hydrophobic regions can comprise polystyrene. See column 7, lines 47-54.

With regards to claim 5, Brown et al teach that each distinct biomolecule is disposed at a separate, defined position on the microarray (i.e. library of first member binding molecules). See column 4, lines 16-23 and lines 38-44.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al (US 5,807,522) in view of Drumheller (US 5,874,165).

Brown et al reference has been disclosed above, but fails to teach that the hydrophilic material comprises polyacrylic acid.

Drumheller reference teaches a support member comprising a hydrophobic polymeric support of polypropylene and 1st and 2nd layers of hydrophilic polyacrylic acid, in order to provide layers of chemically stable hydrophilic polymers to stably immobilize bioactive species. See column 10, lines 47-51; column 11, lines 14-19 and 61-66; column 12, lines 1-2; and column 14, lines 51-54. Drumheller also teaches that the bioactive species can include antibodies. See column 16, line 26.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Brown et al, with a support member comprising a hydrophobic polymeric support of polypropylene and 1st and 2nd layers of hydrophilic

polyacrylic acid, as taught by Drumheller, in order to provide layers of chemically stable hydrophilic polymers to stably immobilize bioactive species. The polyacrylic acid of Drumheller has the advantage of preventing the loss of immobilized biomolecules, thereby providing motivation to substitute the polyacrylic acid for the hydrophilic material of Brown et al. In addition, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have reasonable expectation of success in including hydrophilic polyacrylic acid, as taught by Drumheller, in the apparatus of Brown et al, since Brown et al teach hydrophilic spots on polystyrene substrates, and the polyacrylic acid of Drumheller is capable of being supported by polystyrene material.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-11 of the Remarks, filed 02 March 2005, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Uo et al (US 4,803,154) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Brown et al (US 5,807,522).

Conclusion

10. No claims are allowed.

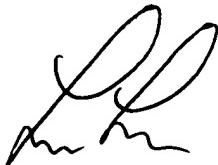
Art Unit: 1641

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leon Y. Lum whose telephone number is (571) 272-2878. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Leon Y. Lum
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1641



LYL



LONG V. LE
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11/30/05